



Residential Fence Regulations & Approvals

Important Guidelines

A zoning permit is required for all fence projects in the City of Charlotte. Zoning regulations can be complex and difficult to interpret, but understanding the basic rules will make your project easier to plan. **All zoning approvals require a drawing** (see page 2 for more information). **The rules for projects on corner lots are different, please call for more information.**

Fence materials:

- All fences must be constructed of generally accepted fencing materials such as painted or treated wood, chain link, brick, stone, vinyl or wrought iron. Other materials may be permitted, however makeshift or salvaged materials are not allowed.
- Barbed wire or electric fences are not allowed in residential districts.
- Fences must not have sharp points.

Fence placement:

- Fences in the front yard must not exceed 42 inches in height, and must be ornamental in nature (i.e. 50% open or see-through, such as a picket or wrought-iron fence. Wire and chain link fences are not considered ornamental and are not allowed in a front yard area).
- Privacy fences of not more than 6 feet, 6 inches are allowed in side and rear yards.
- Recorded lots in excess of 2 acres with a frontage of at least 200 feet are excluded from these regulations.
- Fences within 15 feet of a driveway or 25 feet of a street intersection must meet corner clearance requirements.
- No fence can be installed that unreasonably restricts the use of, or access to, adjacent property.
- Fences with an identifiable finished side must be installed so the finished side faces outward.



Property lines:

- It is the homeowner's responsibility to know where their property line is located. City of Charlotte staff can provide reasonable assistance in locating a property line, but this does not constitute or replace a survey when a property line location is disputed.
- If a property line is disputed, the City of Charlotte may require a survey before issuing a fence permit.
- Fences can be placed on a property line with the written permission of the adjacent property owners. If it is not possible to obtain written permission, the fence must be placed at least one foot away from the property line.

Checklist for Drawings (*failure to include the required information may delay your permit approval*):

- ☐ Street address of the property where the fence will be installed.
- ☐ Complete contact information for the applicant, as well as the property owner if not the applicant – name, mailing address, phone number and email.
- ☐ The location, height and material of the proposed fence.
- ☐ The location, height and material of any existing fences on the property.
- ☐ The proximity of the fence to the property lines.
- ☐ The location of all driveways on the property, and on adjacent properties if they are within 15 feet of the proposed fence.
- ☐ The location of all structures on the lot and their proximity to the proposed fence.

The fee for a fence permit is \$20. Payment must be submitted at the time of application. Application must include the drawing with all required information and written permission of property owner if proposing fence on the property line.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP WITH YOUR DRAWING OR MEASUREMENTS,
CONTACT BRYAN MYRKLE AT (517) 543-8853 OR BMYRKLE@CHARLOTTEMI.ORG**